

Bill Lueders

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Newsletter ...

Thanks to everyone who came out for the <u>WisACT</u> launch reception Tuesday night. The energy and civic pride in the room at Villa Terrace was truly impressive!

We are recruiting people like you from across Wisconsin, and from across all political identities, to serve as messengers for better politics and civic engagement. We will give you the tools to counter the voices of a very small minority that is sowing mistrust in our elections and the broader political system.

What we ask of you:

Join us, and lend your name to this cross-partisan effort. Help us rebuild trust in our institutions and speak out against violence and intimidation in our politics.

Attend our monthly network meetings. Mark your calendars: The first will be at noon on May 29 via Zoom (credentials to come). During these one-hour meetings, we will offer background and context to help you understand how our politics got to this point. We'll offer training to help you learn tactics and strategies to bridge divides. We'll discuss our latest work and events and leave plenty of time for your questions.

Help at an event. WisACT plans a series of events throughout the year leading up to the election (we'll be at Juneteenth in Milwaukee and the Rotary Club of Milwaukee in early July). We intend to collaborate with other groups dedicated to this work, including <u>Braver Angels</u>, <u>Urban Rural Action</u>, <u>Keep Our Republic</u> and Rotary clubs across the state.

Participate in our pro-democracy messaging campaign. Give us 15 minutes a week to share facts about elections and other positive messages on your own social media accounts. Your effort will be part of a larger, coordinated movement that will see dozens of organizations and thousands of civic leaders promoting these themes as we move closer to Election Day. Your voice and name will be a powerful signal to others. You can show the small minority who profit from division that the

vast majority of Wisconsinites – across the political spectrum – oppose any effort to weaken our democratic republic.

Get trained in rapid response. We will organize workshops this fall for members interested in learning how to respond to potential threats and violence in the run-up to the November election and beyond. This will include building a communications system linking network members.

The idea here is to ensure that we have eyes and ears on the ground around the state alert to triggers for political or identity-based violence or other anti-democratic behavior – and that we can leverage constructive, nonviolent community responses. <u>The Carter Center</u>, which is supporting WisACT, has years of experience in conflict resolution around the world.

Bottom line: We will equip you with the tools to help reinvigorate our democracy and promote peaceful civic engagement in the Badger State.



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